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TITLE

PRODUCTION OF FOAM HAVING DIRECTIONAL PORE

ABSTRACT :

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To inexpensively produce foams of high melting materials (metals and ceramics) having excellent lightness in weight, air permeability and filtration

characteristic and directional pores.

SOLUTION: Metals or ceramics are melted in a melting furnace to obtain molten metal. Gases consisting of at least one kind of gases among gaseous H, N and O, are applied to this molten metal and the total pressure 1 to 500atm of the gases is applied thereto to dissolve the gases. Casting molds are preheated to a range of the respective. m.p. of the metals or ceramics ±50°C. While the total pressure of the gases applied to the molten metal is maintained, the molten metal is poured into the preheated casting molds. While the total pressure of the gases applied to the molten metal is maintained, the heat extraction from the upper surface and flanks of the casting molds is prevented and the heat is extracted from the lower surface alone to allow the molten metal to solidify. The molten metal is unidirectionally solidified to the foam which extends upward, has the directional pores of a minor diameter of 5µm to 10mm and porosity of 50 to 98%. Further, fine particles to constitute the nuclei for foaming are added to the molten metal.

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#### 麻香競球 支競球 海東型の数2 〇1. (全 6 円)

		海查請求	京韶求 茵泉項の数2 OL (全 6 円)					
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### (54) 【発明の名称】 方向性気孔を有する発泡体の製造方法

### (57)【要約】

【課題】 軽量性、通気性および譲過性に優れ、方向性 気孔を有する高融点物質(金属およびセラミックス)の 発泡体を安価に製造する。

(2)

### 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項 1 】 下記(a)~(e)の工程よりなること を特徴とする方向性気孔を有する発泡体の製造方法。

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- (a) 密解炉内において金属またはセラミックスを密解 して溶想を得る工程、
- (b)次いで、前記溶腸に対して水素、窒素および酸素 ガスの内少なくとも1種のガスのみからなり、当該ガス の全圧力を1~500気圧の範圍内で加えることによ り、前記密揚に前記ガスを溶解させる工程、
- ぞれの融点-50 C以上、融点+50 C以下の範囲内の 温度に予熱する工程、
- (d)次いで、前記容揚に加えられた前記ガスの全圧力 を保持したまま、前記温度に予熱された前記鋳型に、前 記溶湯を鋳込む工程、および、
- (e) 前記溶湯に加えられた前記ガスの全圧力を保持し たまま、前記録型の上面および側面からの抜熱を防止 し、前記鋳型の下面からのみ抜熱をし、溶腸を疑固させ ることにより、上方に長く延びた短径5 mm~10mm に一方向疑固させる工程。

【請求項2】 請求項1記載の発明の工程に、更に、落 過に発泡核となる機細粒子を添加する工程を付加すると とを特徴とする方向性気孔を有する発泡体の製造方法。 【発明の詳細な説明】

### [0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】との発明は、発泡金属(台金 を含む)および発泡セラミックスの製造方法に関するも のである。

### [0002]

【従来の技術】発泡金層および多孔質セラミックスは、 それぞれ、金属中に発泡による無数の気泡を残留させた 金属の一種、およびセラミックス中に無数の気孔を形成 させたセラミックスの一種であり、いずれも軽量で通気 性および徳過機能に優れた材料である。

【0003】このような発泡金属を製造する方法として 次の①および②の方法がある。

#### の電気メッキによる製造方法

この方法では、発泡樹脂としてウレタンフォームを使 れを電気メッキ槽の中でニッケルメッキを施す。ニッケ ルメッキ後は600℃ではい焼して、ウレタンフォーム を焼却し、見に、900°Cの水素気流中で還元する。発 抱墓材にピッチ系炭素繊維のフェルトを用いる場合は、 ピッチ系炭素繊維が導電性であるから導電処理は不要で あるが、上記例と同様に順次、フェルトの洗浄、電気メ ッキ。はい焼次いで還元の工程を経て製造される。

【0004】とのようにして得られた発泡金属を、Ni -Cd、N:-H電池の電極の基板として用いると、N 負極活物質を、気孔内に多量に充填することができるた め、電池の小型化、高容量化を図ることができる。

【りりり5】②鑄造法による製造方法

この方法は、アルミニウムのような融点の低い発泡金属 の製造で採用されている。即ち、金属溶湯へ空気を吹き 込み、カルシウム等を添加して粘度を増加させた後、そ の融点近傍の温度において発泡剤を添加する。発泡剤と しては、ガスを発生する水素化物や、水を含む天然鉱物 を用いる。金属溶湯に発泡剤を添加すると直ちにガス気 (c) 鋳型を、前記金属または前記セラミックスのそれ 10 泡が発生するので、鎖掉機で素早く溶湯を鎖拌して気泡 を分散させつつ凝固させる。

> 【0006】一方、セラミックスの多孔質体を製造する 方法としては、

> ③焼結法による方法がある。この方法は、セラミックス を所定の粒度範囲に調製し、得られたセラミックス粉末 を競結して製造するのが一般的である。

### [0007]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、上記の ~②の製造方法には、それぞれ次の問題がある。即ち、 工程からなっている。従って、この方法で製造される発 泡金属を薄くスライスして作られる発泡金属板は高価な ものとなってしまうので、発泡金属の普及を妨げる一因 になっていた。

> 【0008】②鑄造法による場合には、発泡剤が比較的 低い温度でガスを発生してしまうので、アルミニウムの ような融点の低い金属しか製造することができず、ニッ ケルや鉄などのように 1 0 0 0 ℃を超える高い融点を有 する金属の発泡体製造は、これまで困難であった。また 30 融点の高い金属の発泡体を製造する場合には、発泡剤と してチタン水素化物等のようにガス発生高温の高い物質 を用いなければならない。ところがこのような発泡剤は 高価であり、製造コストが高くなる。

【①①09】の婉結法による発泡セラミックスでは、気 孔率が50%程度のものしか製造することができず、軽 置性および通気性に問題があった。従って、この発明の 目的は、上述した問題を解決し、適切な製造工程により 従来よりも安価に製造し、また従来は製造が困難であっ たり、発泡体が高価なため製造コストの高かった高融点 い。これに楽電処理を施すためにカーボンを塗布し、こ 49 の金属の発泡体を簡易な方法で製造し、より安価に製造 する。そして、従来得られなかった、軽量で通気性に優 れた高性能な発泡セラミックスを簡便に製造することが できる方法を提供することにある。

#### [0010]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明者等は、上述した 観点から、全く新しい方法で、気孔の大きさおよび方向 性、並びに気孔率を制御することができる発泡金属およ び発泡セラミックスを簡便に製造する方法を開発すべく 鋭意研究を重ね、次の知見を得た。即ち、当該物質を溶 1 (OH) ,の正極活物質や、C d や水素吸蔵合金等の 50 融し、得られた溶渦に適切な高圧下でガスを溶解させ、

ガスを溶解させたままの状態で溶温を撹拌しながら冷却 を制御しつつ疑固させることにより 希望する性状の発 泡金属および発泡セラミックスを製造することができる ことを見出した。

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【①①11】本発明は上記知見に基づきなされたもので あって、請求項1記載の発泡体の製造方法は、下記 (a)~(e)の工程よりなることに特徴を有するもの

(a) 溶解炉内において金属またはセラミックスを溶解 して溶渦を得る工程、(b)次いで、溶渦に対して水 素、窒素もよび酸素ガスの内少なくとも1種のガスのみ からなり、当該ガスの全圧力を1~500気圧の範圍内 で加えることにより、溶湯にガスを溶解させる工程、

(c) 鋳型を、金属またはセラミックスのそれぞれの融 点-50 ℃以上、融点+50 ℃以下の範圍内の温度に予 熱する工程、(d)次いで、溶腸に加えられた全圧力を 保持したまま、上記温度に予熱された貸型に、溶湯を鋳 込む工程、および、(e)溶腸に加えられたガスの全圧 力を保持したまま、鋳型の上面および側面からの接熱を ることにより、上方に長く延びた短径5μm~10mm の方向性気孔を有し、且つ気孔率50~98%の発泡体 に一方向疑固させる工程。

【0012】請求項2記載の発泡体の製造方法は、請求 項1に記載の発明に、更に、溶晶に発泡核となる微細粒 子を添加する工程を付加することに特徴を有するもので ある。

### [0013]

である。

【発明の真施の形態】次に、この発明の製造方法を上述 した通り限定した理由を説明する。

(イ) 溶腸に対するガスの全圧力=1~500気圧の範 関内に保持し、且つその圧力を保持したまま、所定の鋳 型に鋳造し冷却し疑固させること:まず金属またはセラ ミックスを所定の方法で溶解し、次いで得られた溶揚に 窒素、酸素および水素ガスの内少なくとも一種のガスを 含み、その他のガスは実質的に含まないガス雰囲気を作 る。このガス雰囲気の全圧力が1~500気圧の範囲内 で、当該ガスを溶解させる。ガスの全圧力が1気圧未満 ではガスの溶解量が少なく。高い気孔率の発泡体を得る 望の気孔率をもつ発泡体を得ることができる。それ以上 の圧力を得るためには設備コストが高くなり、不経済で ある。従って、ガスの全圧力は1~500気圧の範囲内 とする。

【①①14】図1にFe中の水素の溶解度を、種々の水 案圧力の場合について例示する。Feの融点は1539 ℃程度であり、水素溶解度は固体Feでは水素圧力の大 小に依らず小さいが、液体Feになると急激に大きくな る。しかも、液体Fe中の水素溶解度は水素圧力が大き くなるほど大きくなることがわかる。従って、固体Fe-50 【0021】(ハ)鋳型の温度を、当該金属またはセラ

中に多量の水素ガスを残留させるためには、液体状態の Feに加えていた水素圧力をそのまま保持して疑固させ なければならない。

【10015】溶湯中へのガスの溶解度は、ガスー溶晶物 質の組み合わせに応じて、温度およびガスの圧力により 定まる。そして固体内に残留するガス量は主に上記組み 台わせとガス圧力により決まるので、これにより気孔率 を調整することができる。

【①①16】溶湯道がFeでガス種が水素の場合に限ち 10 ず、溶湯が金属またはセラミックスでガスが水素、窒素 および融業の場合には上記と同じ傾向の挙動をする。従 って、(イ)の条件が必要である。

【①①17】(ロ)ガス種を水煮、窒素および酸素の内 から少なくとも一種を選び、且つ密湯を撹拌しながら冷 却・疑固させること:溶湯に溶解させるガス種は、当該 ガスを含有した溶揚(金属溶揚またはセラミックス溶 揚)が凝固するときに、共晶反応を起こすことが必要で ある。容易が疑固するときに共晶反応を起こす場合に は、当該溶湯物質の固相と当該ガス相とがミクロ的に層 防止し、鋳型の下面からのみ抜熱をし、溶湯を凝固させ、20、状に新出する。所謂共晶組織を形成する。共晶組織を形 成する場合には、経固時、即ち、当該溶湯が純金属等純 物質または全率固溶体を形成する多元系合金等多元系物 質(以下、「純物質等」という)の場合は融点におい て、全率固溶体を形成しない多元系合金等多元系物質 (以下、「多元系物質等」という) の場合には固液が共 存層する液相線温度以下、固相線温度以上の温度域にお いて、溶湯を上方および側面から冷却することなく、下 方からのみ冷却することにより気孔が下から上に延びた 一方向疑固体を得ることができる。

> 【10018】水素、窒素および酸素は、Fe、Ni、C: u. A! およびMo等の金属やアルミナおよびマグネシ アと共晶反応を起こすガスである。図2に、Cu-H系 の二元系平衡状態図の模式図を示す。同図において、M はCuを表わす。本発明の方法をCu-H系に適用し、 **溶湯内の小領域に注目すると、同図中、直線加に沿って** 疫湯温度をゆっくり下げていき、共晶温度P点になると 温度低下が停滞し、球状気泡が固液界面に形成されて凝 固の進行につれて上方に長く成長し、疑固が完了し、再 度温度が低下していき、Cuの発泡金属が得られる。

ことが困難である。一方、500気圧までの全圧力で所、40 /【0019】図3に、本発明による溶湯の凝固過程にお けるミクロ状態模式図を示す。融点または凝固温度にお いて共晶反応を起こし、且つ一方向疑固をさせるので、 液相しの中に多数の柱状のガス相Gと固相Sとが折出し それぞれが上方に成長する。ガス相Gの形態は表面張力 の影響で円筒状に延び、周囲が固相で埋めつくされる。 【0020】しかしながら、共晶反応以外の疑固組織を 形成するガス種の場合には、凝固時に固相とガス組とが ミクロ的に共存せずマクロ的に二相に分離する。従っ て、疑固体内部に気泡を形成させることが困難である。

ミックスのそれぞれの融点 - 50 ℃以上、融点+50℃ 以下の範囲内に予熱すること:鋳型としては熱圧導性を 確保することができる材質のものを使用し、必要に応じ て冷却する。貸型の温度は溶温が純物貿等の場合には融 点-50℃未満。多元系物質等の場合には液相線温度-5.0 C未満の温度では、疑固核が鋳型壁で多数発生し、 一方向凝固組織が得られない。一方、鏡型の温度がそれ ぞれ、融点または液相線温度+50℃超えの温度では、 経国開始までに時間を要し、生産効率が低下したり鋳型 寿命が短くなったりする。従って、鏡型を溶揚の融点ま 10 均一にするからである。 たは液相線温度-50 C以上、融点または液相線温度+ 50°C以下に予熱することが必要である。

【①022】(ニ〉金属またはセラミックス中に均一に 方向性気孔を形成させ、気孔の直径=5μm~10m m. 気孔率=50~98%であること: 気孔の形態が円 柱状的に方向性を持つと、軽量構造部材や通気材にとっ て好都合であり、高強度なシャフトやフィルター担体と いった用途に適する。

【0023】溶湯の温度およびガス圧力を、金属-ガス 択することによりガスの溶解量を制御することができる (例えば、図1参照)。従って、発泡金属および発泡セ ラミックスの気孔の大きさおよび気孔率を制御すること ができる。気孔径は5μm未満では、通気性が悪くな り、一方、10mmより大きくなると材料強度を確保す るのが困難になる。従って、気孔径は5μm~10mm の範囲内とする。容易の冷却速度が大きいほど小さい径 の気孔が得られ、冷却速度が小さいほど気孔は成長する ので大きい径の気孔が生成する。

性に劣り、一方、98%を超えると材料強度を確保する のが困難である。従って、気孔率は50~98%の範囲 内とする。溶漏内の気泡率が高くなると、溶腸の表面張 力により気泡の膜が破裂して、気孔同士が連通したいわ ゆるオープンセルができる。オープンセルの形成は容易 の钻度に依存するので、連通しない独立孔を形成させる ときは、CaやMg等を添加して増結してやる。

【0025】(ホ)鋳型の上面および側面からの接熱を 防止し、鋳型の下面からのみ抜熱をし、溶腸を疑固させ 組織を形成させることが必要であることは上述したとお りである。下方から冷却するのは、溶湯(液体)中に生 成する結晶核(固体)は溶湯より密度が大きいので沈降 する。従って、下方から疑固を進行させないと、気泡を

均一に上方に延ばすことができない。従って、倍型の冷 却は下方向からに限定しなければならない。なお、冷却 は窒素やアルゴン等のガス、または、ミストや水等を鋳 型に吹き付けて行なう。

【0026】(へ) 密揚に発泡核となる微細粒子を添加 すること:気孔の分布を調整するために、溶腸の融点ま たは液相線温度よりも融点が高い炭火物、窒化物あるい は酸化物等の微細粒子を適宜添加することが望ましい。 これらの微細粒子は気孔の発生核となり、気孔の分布を

[0027]

【実施例】次に、この発明の発泡体の製造方法を、実施 例によって更に詳細に説明する。図4に、実施例および 比較例の方法を試験するために用いた溶解・鋳造装置の 鉄路縦断面図を示す。装置全体が高圧容器1の中に入っ ている。疼解炉2により各種金属またはセラミックスを 溶解する。得られた溶揚4にガス添加管5よりボーラス レンガ6を通って水素、窒素または酸素ガスを適宜吹き 込みながら高圧容器1内の圧力を所定圧力まで高めて当 系またはセラミックス-ガス系の種類に合わせて適宜選 20 該ガスを添加する。このようにして所定濃度のガスを慈 解させた窓場4を収容した溶解炉2を傾動し、タンディ ッシュ7を経由して鋳型8に注入する。注入後は上部か らの接熱を防ぐために断熱レンガ15で鋳型8上部を覆 う。鑄型8はヒーター3、により予め適温に加熱してお く。一方、鋳型3の下部に冷却媒体11を吹きつけ、鋳 型下部から上方に向かって一方向に冷却すると、凝固金 属組またはセラミックス組とガス相が上方に成長する。 冷却媒体11によって鋳型8に振動を与えると、疑固核 が溶湯面に発生しやすいので、鋳型はしっかりと固定す 【0024】また気孔率が50%未満では軽置性、通気、30、るのが望ましい。高圧容器1内のガス圧力は経固完了ま で上記所定圧力に保持し、溶腸の冷却・凝固時に溶腸か らガスが抜け出すのを抑制する。

【0028】上記試験装置を用い上記方法により発泡金 属および発泡セラミックスを製造した。 表1に、本発明 の範囲内である実施例No.1~10および本発明の範囲 外である比較例No.1~2の各発泡体の製造条件。およ び得られた発泡体の性状(気孔形態、気孔径および気孔 率)を示す。なお、各落湯の融点(または液相線)+5 0 ℃から融点(または液相線)-250℃までの温度区 ること:方向性気孔を形成させるためには、一方向疑固 40 間を ○ 0 · 0 1 ~ 1 0 0 ℃/s e c の平均冷却速度で冷 却した。

[0029]

【表1】

		/								8	
	100	溶褐蜡纸	istoor z	ボス応加 温度 (て)	がス圧力 (aini)	海加湖 拉子	神型語 皮 (て)	冷却奖 体	氣孔形態	知孔 経	\$2.P. \$2(%)
	ı	Ni	H	[800	50	_	1400	ミスト	往伏	0.5 ma	90
	2	¥i,	Н	1550	(.)	_	1430	271	•	() ma	50
実	Ą	Иį	Н	1560	€60	TiC	1450	水	,	Īμπ	58
	6	Ag	Ü	1100	10		960	海ボカス	•	פע 70	63
拖	5	aj	н	780	150		640	空东	•	lma	25
	5	Fe- 10%tin	א	1650	250	-	1450	定型isz	,	Q.5114	95
(F)	7	Çıı	н	1100	20	41,04	1480	111		30 # n	75
	8	スケンレン 接	N+H	[600	100	tin	1500	夏森37		1.2m	80
	9	AL <sub>1</sub> O~	н	2260	156	_	2000	变素53	•	Q.7nn	65
	ιĵ	vea	H	2900	200	_	2800	<b>窒素</b> 67	-	О.Зып	75
ţţ	1	Fe	н	1600	25	-	1400	水	拉状褐入	30 u u	70
穀例	2	Ы	H	l550	c.8	-	1430	文系	往伏	0.2nn	45

【0030】実施例No.1においては、1800°CのN ・溶湯に50気圧で水素を添加し、これを1400℃に 均一に予熱した爲型に鋳込んだ。鋳込み後鋳型上部を断 熱カバーで覆い、鋳型の底面に水を微細な粒子としたミ ストを吹付けて一方向から冷却し完全疑問させた。これ を有し、気孔率90%の発泡ニッケルを得ることができ た。この発泡ニッケルの気孔の形態および分布状態の模 式図を図5に示す。この発泡ニッケルを厚さ(). 8 mm の板にスライス切断してNi-月電池の正極に使用し た。これは従来品より安価であり、且つ気孔が表裏に貢 通しているためNI (OH)」の充填もスムーズであ り、電圧低下の小さい優れた電極性能を示した。

【0031】実施例No.2~10においては、冷却媒体 を一部変更し、実施例No.1に進じた方法で発泡体を製 造した。但し、実施例No.3、7 および8 では、溶過に 40 それぞれTIC.AI、O、およびTiNの微粒子を添 加した。また、溶腸の種類および添加ガスの種類を一部 変更した。その他の製造条件は衰1に示した通りであ る。いずれも柱状の気孔を有し、所望の性状の発泡体を 得ることができた。

【0032】これに対して比較例No.1では、跨型温度 が溶湯金属、鉄の融点−50℃より低かったため、鋳型 壁から結晶粒が成長し、発泡鉄の一部に粒状の気孔が混 入して形成された。

【0033】比較例2では、水素ガス添加圧力が低く本 50 1 高圧容器

発明の範囲外であったため、発泡ニッケルの気孔率が5 0%未満であった。

#### [0034]

【発明の効果】以上述べたように、この発明によれば、 従来製造が困難であったり、コストが高かったりした高 によって直径(短径)()、5mmの柱状に成長した気泡 30 融点の金属の発泡体、軽量性および通気性において十分 満足することができなかったセラミックスの発泡体、並 びに、多種類の金属、台金およびセラミックスの発泡体 であって方向性気孔を有するものを、高圧下における溶 解、鑄造および凝固という簡単な工程により簡便に製造 する方法を提供することができ、工業上有用な効果がも たらされる。

### 【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】種々の水素圧力の場合の、Feの温度と水素の 溶解度との関係を示す グラフである。

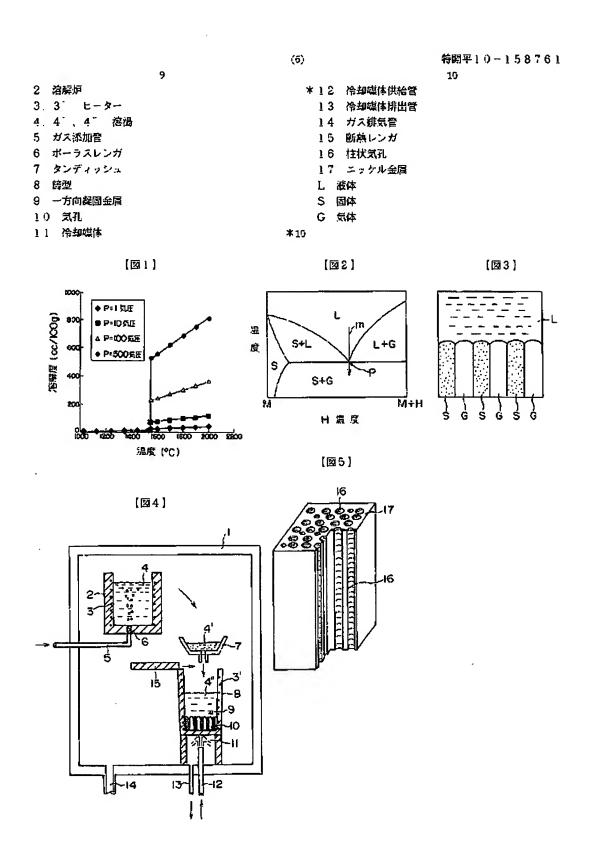
【図2】Cu-H系の二元系平衡状態図の模式図であ

【図3】本発明による溶湯の凝固過程における内部のミ クロ的模式図である。

【図4】実施例および比較例の方法を試験するために用 いた溶解・鋳造装置の機略機断面図である。

【図5】本発明の方法により得られた発泡ニッケルの気 孔の形態および分布状態を模式的に示す一部断面切欠き 図である。

【符号の説明】



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### **CLAIMS**

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The manufacture approach of the foam which has the directivity pore characterized by consisting of a process of following (a) - (e).

(a) (b) b [ the process which dissolves a metal or the ceramics into a fusion furnace, and obtains a molten metal, and ] Rank second. By consisting only of at least one sort of gas among hydrogen, nitrogen, and oxygen gas to said molten metal, and applying the total pressure of the gas concerned within the limits of one to 500 atmospheric pressure (d) d [ the process which heats beforehand the process which dissolves said gas in said molten metal, and (c) mold to temperature with a melting point / of said metal or said ceramics / each / of -50 degrees C or more /, and a melting point of +50 degrees C or less within the limits, and ] Rank second. The total pressure of said gas added to said mold which said temperature preheated at the process which casts said molten metal, and the (e) aforementioned molten metal has been held with the total pressure of said gas added to said molten metal held. The process which has the directivity pore of 5 micrometers - 10mm of minor axes prolonged for a long time up by preventing cooling from the top face and side face of said mold, carrying out cooling only from the underside of said mold, and making a molten metal solidify, and foam of 50 - 98% of porosity is made to carry out one direction coagulation.

[Claim 2] The manufacture approach of the foam which has further the directivity pore characterized by adding the process which adds the very fine particle which serves as a foaming nucleus at a molten metal at the process of invention according to claim 1.

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### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the manufacture approach of a foam metal (an alloy is included) and the foaming ceramics.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] A foam metal and porous ceramics are a metaled kind which made the countless air bubbles by foaming remain in a metal, and a kind of the ceramics which made countless pore form into the ceramics, respectively, and its all are lightweight, and they are the ingredients excellent in permeability and a filtration function.

[0003] There is the approach of \*\* of a degree and \*\* as an approach of manufacturing such a foam metal.

\*\* By the manufacture approach this gentleman method by electroplating, use urethane foam as foaming resin, in order to perform electric conduction processing to this, apply carbon, and perform nickel plating for this in an electric plating bath. Calcining of after nickel plating is carried out at 600 degrees C, it incinerates urethane foam, and returns it in a 900-degree C hydrogen air current further. Although electric conduction processing is unnecessary since a pitch based carbon fiber is conductivity when using the felt of a pitch based carbon fiber for a foaming base material, it is manufactured through the process of reduction one by one by the washing [ of the felt ], electroplating, and calcining following \*\* like the above-mentioned example.

[0004] Thus, when the obtained foam metal is used as a substrate of the electrode of nickel-Cd and a Ni-H battery, it is nickel (OH)2. Since it can be filled up with negative-electrode active materials, such as positive active material, Cd, and a hydrogen storing metal alloy, so much in pore, miniaturization of a cell and high capacity-ization can be attained.

[0005] \*\* The manufacture approach this gentleman method by casting is adopted by manufacture of a foam metal with the low melting point like aluminum. That is, air is blown into a metal molten metal, and after adding calcium etc. and making viscosity increase, a foaming agent is added in the temperature near [ the ] the melting point. As a foaming agent, the hydride which generates gas, and the natural mineral containing water are used. It is made to solidify, since gas air bubbles are generated shortly after adding a foaming agent to a metal molten metal, agitating a molten metal quickly with an agitator and distributing air bubbles.

[0006] On the other hand, there is an approach by \*\* sintering process as an approach of manufacturing the porous body of the ceramics. As for this approach, it is common to prepare the ceramics to a predetermined size range, and to sinter and manufacture the obtained ceramic powder.

[0007]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, there is the following problem in the manufacture approach of the above-mentioned \*\* - \*\*, respectively. That is, the manufacture approach by \*\* electroplating consists of many processes, as mentioned above. Therefore, since the foam metal plate which slices thinly the foam metal manufactured by this approach, and is made became expensive, it had

become the cause which bars the spread of foam metals.

[0008] \*\* Since the foaming agent generated gas at comparatively low temperature when based on casting, foam manufacture of the metal which has the high melting point which can manufacture only a metal with the low melting point like aluminum, but exceeds 1000 degrees C like nickel or iron was difficult the former. Moreover, when manufacturing the foam of a metal with the high melting point, the high matter of a generation-of-gas elevated temperature must be used like a titanium hydride as a foaming agent. However, such a foaming agent is expensive and a manufacturing cost becomes high. [0009] \*\* With the foaming ceramics by the sintering process, only that whose porosity is about 50% could be manufactured, but the problem was in lightweight nature and permeability. Therefore, the object of this invention solves the problem mentioned above, manufactures it according to a suitable production process more cheaply than before, and conventionally, since foam is expensive in manufacture being difficult, manufactures the foam of the high-melting metal which was high as for the manufacturing cost by the simple approach, and manufactures it more cheaply. And it is in offering the approach that the highly efficient foaming [ which was not obtained conventionally ] ceramics which was lightweight and was excellent in permeability can be manufactured simple.

[Means for Solving the Problem] this invention person etc. was a completely new approach, repeated research wholeheartedly that the approach of manufacturing the foam metal and foaming ceramics which can control porosity in the magnitude of pore and directivity, and a list simple should be developed, and acquired the following knowledge from a viewpoint mentioned above. That is, it found out that the foam metal and foaming ceramics of the description for which it wishes could be manufactured by making it solidify, controlling cooling agitating a molten metal in the condition [fusing the matter concerned, dissolving gas under the suitable high voltage for the obtained molten metal, and having dissolved gas ].

- [0011] This invention is made based on the above-mentioned knowledge, and the manufacture approach of foam according to claim 1 has the description to consist of a process of following (a) - (e). (a) (b) b [ the process which dissolves a metal or the ceramics into a fusion furnace, and obtains a molten metal, and ] Rank second. By consisting only of at least one sort of gas among hydrogen, nitrogen, and oxygen gas to a molten metal, and applying the total pressure of the gas concerned within the limits of one to 500 atmospheric pressure (d) d [ the process which heats beforehand the process which dissolves gas in a molten metal, and (c) mold to temperature with a melting point / of a metal or the ceramics / each / of -50 degrees C or more /, and a melting point of +50 degrees C or less within the limits, and ] Rank second. The total pressure of the gas added to the mold which the above-mentioned temperature preheated at the process which casts a molten metal, and the (e) molten metal has been held with the total pressure held applied to the molten metal. The process which has the directivity pore of 5 micrometers - 10mm of minor axes prolonged for a long time up by preventing cooling from the top face and side face of mold, carrying out cooling only from the underside of mold, and making a molten metal solidify, and foam of 50 - 98% of porosity is made to carry out one direction coagulation. [0012] The manufacture approach of foam according to claim 2 has the description to add further the process which adds the very fine particle which serves as a foaming nucleus at a molten metal to invention according to claim 1.
- [Embodiment of the Invention] Next, the reason limited as the manufacture approach of this invention was mentioned above is explained.
- (b) It casts and cools to predetermined mold and it is made to solidify holding within the limits of total pressure =1 500 atmospheric pressure of the gas to a molten metal, and holding the pressure. : dissolving a metal or the ceramics by the predetermined approach first, other gas makes at least the gas ambient atmosphere which is not included substantially including a kind of gas among nitrogen, oxygen, and hydrogen gas to the molten metal subsequently obtained. Within the limits of one to 500 atmospheric pressure, the total pressure of this gas ambient atmosphere dissolves the gas concerned. The total pressure of gas has few amounts of dissolutions of gas with less than one atmospheric pressure, and

[0013]

it is difficult to obtain the foam of high porosity. On the other hand, the foam which has desired porosity with the total pressure to 500 atmospheric pressures can be obtained. In order to obtain the pressure beyond it, facility cost becomes high, and it is uneconomical. Therefore, total pressure of gas is made into within the limits of one to 500 atmospheric pressure.

[0014] The solubility of the hydrogen in Fe is illustrated about the case of various hydrogen pressure force to drawing 1. The melting point of Fe is about 1539 degrees C, hydrogen solubility does not depend on the size of the hydrogen pressure force by Solid-state Fe, but although it is small, if it becomes Liquid Fe, it will become large rapidly. And it turns out that the hydrogen solubility in Liquid Fe becomes so large that the hydrogen pressure force becomes large. Therefore, in order to make a lot of hydrogen gas remain in Solid-state Fe, the hydrogen pressure force which was being applied to Fe of a liquid condition must be held as it is, and must be made to solidify.

[0015] The solubility of the gas to the inside of a molten metal becomes settled with temperature and the pressure of gas according to the combination of the gas-molten metal matter. And since the capacity which remains in a solid-state is mainly decided by the above-mentioned combination and gas pressure, thereby, porosity can be adjusted.

[0016] Not only when a molten metal kind is [ a type of gas ] hydrogen in Fe but when it is gas and molten metals are hydrogen, nitrogen, and oxygen with a metal or the ceramics, behavior of the same inclination as the above is carried out. Therefore, the conditions of (b) are required.

[0017] (b) Cooling and coagulation of are done choosing a kind for a type of gas from from at least among hydrogen, nitrogen, and oxygen, and agitating a molten metal. : the type of gas dissolved in a molten metal needs to cause an eutectic reaction, when the molten metal (a metal molten metal or ceramic molten metal) containing the gas concerned solidifies. When a molten metal solidifies, in causing an eutectic reaction, the solid phase and the gas phase concerned of the molten metal matter concerned form the so-called eutectic structure which deposits in the shape of a layer in micro. In forming eutectic structure, in the case of plural system matter ("henceforth a pure substance etc."), such as the time of coagulation, i.e., the plural system alloy with which the molten metal concerned forms pure substances, such as a pure metal, or a complete solid solution, it sets to the melting point. In the temperature region below the liquidus-line temperature in which solid-liquid carries out a coexistence layer in the case of plural system matter ("henceforth the plural system matter etc."), such as a plural system alloy which does not form a complete solid solution, and beyond solidus-line temperature Pore can acquire from the bottom the one direction coagulation object prolonged upwards by cooling only from a lower part, without cooling a molten metal from the upper part and a side face.

[0018] Hydrogen, nitrogen, and oxygen are gas which causes a metal, an alumina and a magnesia, and eutectic reactions, such as Fe, nickel, Cu, aluminum, and Mo. drawing 2 -- the duality of a Cu-H system -- the mimetic diagram of a system equilibrium diagram is shown. In this drawing, M expresses Cu. If molten metal temperature is slowly lowered along with the straight line m among this drawing if the approach of this invention is applied to a Cu-H system and the small region in a molten metal is observed, and it becomes P eutectic temperature, temperature lowering will stagnate, and spherical air bubbles are formed in a solid-liquid interface, it grows up for a long time up along with progress of coagulation, coagulation is completed, temperature falls again, and the foam metal of Cu is obtained. [0019] The microstate mimetic diagram in the coagulation process of the molten metal by this invention is shown in drawing 3. Since a lifting and one direction coagulation are carried out for an eutectic reaction in the melting point or coagulation temperature, into the liquid phase L, many column-like the gas phases G and solid phase S deposit, and each grows up. The gestalt of the gas phase G is prolonged in the shape of a cylinder under the effect of surface tension, and a perimeter is filled with solid phase. [0020] However, in the case of the type of gas which forms solidification structure other than an eutectic reaction, solid phase and a gas phase do not live together in micro at the time of coagulation, but it separates into a two phase in macro. Therefore, it is difficult to make air bubbles form in the interior of a coagulation object.

[0021] (c) The temperature of mold is beforehand heated to within the limits with a melting point [ of the metal concerned or the ceramics / each / of -50 degrees C or more ], and a melting point of +50

degrees C or less.: use the thing of construction material which can secure thermal conductivity as mold, and cool if needed. For the temperature of mold, in the case of a pure substance etc., a molten metal is the melting point. - In the case of less than 50 degrees C, the plural system matter, etc., at temperature with a liquidus-line temperature of less than -50 degrees C, many coagulation nuclei occur with a mold wall, and one direction solidification structure is not obtained. On the other hand, at the temperature which the temperature of mold exceeds the melting point or the liquidus-line temperature of +50 degrees C, respectively, time amount is required by coagulation initiation, productive efficiency falls or a mold life becomes short. Therefore, it is required to heat mold beforehand to the melting point or the liquidus-line temperature of -50 degrees C or more, the melting point, or liquidus-line temperature of +50 degrees C or less of a molten metal.

[0022] (d) What directivity pore is made to form into a metal or the ceramics at homogeneity, and is been diameter =5micrometer-10mm of pore, and porosity =50-98%: when the gestalt of pore has directivity in cylindrical, it is convenient for a light-construction member or aeration material, and suitable for applications, such as a high intensity shaft and filter support.

[0023] The amount of dissolutions of gas is controllable by choosing the temperature and gas pressure of a molten metal suitably according to the class of a metal-gas system or ceramic-gas system (for example, refer to drawing 1). Therefore, the magnitude and the porosity of pore of a foam metal and the foaming ceramics are controllable. If permeability worsens and a pore diameter becomes larger than 10mm on the other hand in less than 5 micrometers, it will become difficult to secure material strength. Therefore, a pore diameter is made into within the limits of 5 micrometers - 10mm. The pore of such a small path that the cooling rate of a molten metal is large is obtained, and since pore grows, the pore of a large path generates it, so that a cooling rate is small.

[0024] Moreover, if porosity is inferior to lightweight nature and permeability at less than 50% and it exceeds 98% on the other hand, it is difficult to secure material strength. Therefore, porosity is made into 50 - 98% of within the limits. If the void volume in a molten metal becomes high, the film of air bubbles will explode with the surface tension of a molten metal, and the so-called open cell which pores opened for free passage will be made. Formation of an open cell adds and thickens calcium, Mg, etc., when making the independent hole which is not open for free passage form, since it is dependent on the viscosity of a molten metal.

[0025] (e) Cooling from the top face and side face of mold is prevented, cooling is carried out only from the underside of mold, and a molten metal is made to solidify. : in order to make directivity pore form, it is as having mentioned above that it is required to make one direction solidification structure form. Since the consistency is larger than a molten metal, the crystalline nucleus (solid-state) which cooling from a lower part generates in a molten metal (liquid) sediments. Therefore, unless it advances coagulation from a lower part, air bubbles cannot be extended up to homogeneity. Therefore, cooling of mold must be limited from down. In addition, cooling sprays gas, such as nitrogen and an argon, Myst, water, etc. on mold, and performs them.

[0026] (\*\*) in order to adjust distribution of the thing:pore which adds the very fine particle used as a foaming nucleus to a molten metal -- a charcoal fire with the melting point higher than the melting point or liquidus-line temperature of a molten metal -- it is desirable to add suitably very fine particles, such as an object, a nitride, or an oxide. It is because these very fine particles serve as a generating nucleus of pore and distribution of pore is made into homogeneity.

[Example] Next, an example explains the manufacture approach of the foam this invention to a detail further. Outline drawing of longitudinal section of dissolution / casting equipment used for drawing 4 in order to examine the approach of an example and the example of a comparison is shown. As for close, the whole equipment is in a high pressure vessel 1. Various metals or the ceramics is dissolved with a fusion furnace 2. The pressure in a high pressure vessel 1 is suitably raised for hydrogen, nitrogen, or oxygen gas to the obtained molten metal 4 from the gas addition tubing 5 to a predetermined pressure with an entrainment through the porous brick 6, and the gas concerned is added. Thus, the fusion furnace 2 in which the molten metal 4 in which the gas of predetermined concentration was dissolved

was held is tilted, and it pours into mold 8 via tundish 7. After impregnation is a wrap about the mold 8 upper part with heat insulating brick 15, in order to prevent cooling from the upper part. Mold 8 is beforehand heated to optimal temperature by heater 3'. On the other hand, if a cooling medium 11 is sprayed on the lower part of mold 3 and it cools from the mold lower part to an one direction toward the upper part, a coagulation metal phase or a ceramic phase, and a gas phase will grow up. If an oscillation is given to mold 8 with a cooling medium 11, since it will be easy to generate a coagulation nucleus in a molten metal side, as for mold, fixing firmly is desirable. The gas pressure in a high pressure vessel 1 is held to the above-mentioned predetermined pressure till the completion of coagulation, and it controls that gas slips out from a molten metal at the time of cooling and coagulation of a molten metal. [0028] A foam metal and the foaming ceramics were manufactured by the above-mentioned approach using the above-mentioned testing device. Example No.1-10 which are within the limits of this invention, the manufacture conditions of each foam of example No. of comparison 1-2 that this invention is out of range, and the acquired description (a pore gestalt, a pore diameter, and porosity) of foam are shown in a table 1. In addition, the temperature section from the melting point of +50 degrees C of each molten metal (or liquidus line) to the melting point (or liquidus line) of -250 degrees C was cooled with the average cooling rate of 0.01-100 degrees C/sec. [0029]

[A table 1]

<u>ן א</u> ו	uoi	<u> </u>		·	<del></del> -					г	
	Na.	溶湯種類	添加ガス	ガス添加 温度 (で)	ガス圧力 (atm)	添加微 粒子	辞型温 度 (℃)	冷却媒体	気孔形態	<b>気孔</b> 径	気孔 率(%)
	1	Ni	Н	1800	50	_	1400	ミスト	柱状	0.5 mm	90
	2	1,4	Н	1550	1.1	-	1420	定気	*	8 mm	50
実	3	Ni	Н	1500	460	TiC	1450	冰	И	7 µ m	98
	4	Ag	0	1100	10	_	960	変素ガス	N	70 µ m	65
施	5	. Al	Н	700	150	_	640	定気	#	l ma	85
	6	Fe-10%Mn	N	1650	250		1450	変異ガス	а	0.5mm	95
例	7	Cu	Н	1100	20	A1203	1060	ミスト	n	30 µ m	75
	8	スタンレス 4項	N + H	1600	100	TiN	1500	窒素がス	,	1.2mm	80
	9	AlzOn	Н	2200	150	_	2000	窒素が3	,,	0.7mm	65
	10	NgO	н	2900	200		2800	窒素ガス	,	0.3mm	75
۶Ł	1	Fe	Н	1600	25	_	1400	水	粒状混入	30 µm	70
較例	2	Ni	Н	1550	0.8	_	1430	茂空	柱状	0.2mm	45

[0030] In example No.1, hydrogen was added with 50 atmospheric pressures to 1800-degree C nickel molten metal, and it cast to the mold which preheated this at 1400 degrees C at homogeneity. It sprayed, and full coagulation of Myst which made water the detailed particle for the mold upper part after casting on the base of a bonnet and mold with the insulation cover was cooled and carried out from the one direction. By this, it has the air bubbles which grew with a diameter (minor axis) of 0.5mm in the shape of a column, and foaming nickel of 90% of porosity was able to be obtained. The mimetic diagram of

the gestalt of the pore of this foaming nickel and a distribution condition is shown in <u>drawing 5</u>. Slice cutting was carried out and this foaming nickel was used for the plate with a thickness of 0.8mm at the positive electrode of a Ni-H battery. Since it is conventionally cheaper than elegance and pore has penetrated on the front reverse side, this is nickel (OH)2. Restoration is also smooth and the small outstanding electrode engine performance of sag was shown.

[0031] In example No.2-10, the partial change of the cooling medium was carried out, and foam was manufactured by the approach according to example No.1. However, at example No.3, and 7 and 8, they are TiC and aluminum 2O3 to a molten metal, respectively. And the particle of TiN was added. Moreover, the partial change of the class of molten metal and the class of addition gas was carried out. Other manufacture conditions are as having been shown in a table 1. All have column-like pore and were able to obtain the foam of desired description.

[0032] On the other hand, in example No.of comparison 1, since mold temperature was lower than the melting point of -50 degrees C of a molten metal metal and iron, crystal grain grew from the mold wall, and grain-like pore was mixed and formed in some foaming iron.

[0033] In the example 2 of a comparison, since the hydrogen gas addition pressure was low and this invention's was out of range, the porosity of foaming nickel was less than 50%.
[0034]

[Effect of the Invention] As stated above, according to this invention, conventionally, manufacture is difficult or The foam of the ceramics which was not able to be enough satisfied in the foam, the high-melting metaled lightweight nature, and the high-melting metaled permeability whose cost was high, A list can be provided with the approach of manufacturing simple what is foam of the metal of varieties, an alloy, and the ceramics, and has directivity pore according to the easy process of the dissolution under high voltage, casting, and coagulation, and useful effectiveness is brought to it on industry.

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### DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the graph which shows the relation between the temperature of Fe in the case of various hydrogen pressure force, and the solubility of hydrogen.

[Drawing 2] the duality of a Cu-H system -- it is the mimetic diagram of a system equilibrium diagram.

[Drawing 3] It is the micro mimetic diagram of the interior in the coagulation process of the molten metal by this invention.

[Drawing 4] It is outline drawing of longitudinal section of dissolution / casting equipment used in order to examine the approach of an example and the example of a comparison.

[Drawing 5] the gestalt and distribution condition of pore of foaming nickel which were acquired by the approach of this invention are shown typically -- it is cross-section notch drawing a part.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 High Pressure Vessel
- 2 Fusion Furnace
- 3 3' Heater
- 4, 4', 4" Molten metal
- 5 Gas Addition Tubing
- 6 Porous Brick
- 7 Tundish
- 8 Mold
- 9 One Direction Coagulation Metal
- 10 Pore
- 11 Cooling Medium
- 12 Cooling-Medium Supply Pipe
- 13 Cooling-Medium Exhaust Pipe
- 14 Flueing Tubing
- 15 Heat Insulating Brick
- 16 Pillar-shaped Pore
- 17 Nickel Metal
- L Liquid
- S Solid-state
- G Gas

2

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## **DRAWINGS**

